

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action of May 7, 2007, slight amendment has been made to the specification, the Abstract has been amended, claims 1, 6 and 7 have been amended, claim 2-4, 5 and 10-15 have been canceled and claim 17 is newly presented.

Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found in the application as filed, including page 3, lines 3-5, page 13, lines 6-11, as well as Figure 3b and the description thereof, including page 12, lines 12-28. Support for the amendment to claim 7 is also found in the specification and drawings as originally filed, including those identified above, including page 4, lines 26-35. Newly submitted claim 17 corresponds to amended claim 7, but written using means plus function terminology. Claim 6 has been amended to point out that the program code is run on an electronic device.

Drawings

At page 2, the drawings are objected to for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) and, specifically, Figure 2 is objected to for not showing step 4 as recited at page 4, paragraph 0049 of the application. Amendment has been made to paragraph 0049 which appears on page 10 of the application as originally filed to indicate that the step identified by the numeral 4 should be identified by the numeral 6 and therefore corresponds correctly to what is shown in Figure 2. Consequently, amendment to Figure 2 is not deemed necessary.

Specification

At pages 2-3 of the Official Action, the Abstract is objected to for use of words including "means" and "said". Amendment has been made to the Abstract to delete such word usage. The Abstract is believed to be in compliance with 37 CFR §1.72.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §101

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC §101 as containing non-statutory subject matter. This claim has been canceled in view of claim 6.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

At section 4, claims 1, 6-11 and 16 are rejected as anticipated in view of JP 11355432, Oiwa, et al (hereinafter Oiwa).

With respect to claim 1, it is asserted that Oiwa discloses all of the actions recited in the method.

As set forth in the Abstract of Oiwa, it provides what is called a “temporal release” (S102) as shown in Figure 1 thereof which is one of the two selections that can be made so as to provide a dial lock release method for a mobile communication terminal equipment provided with a dial lock function. If the “temporal release” is selected and the appropriate password entered, the dial lock is temporarily released (S108). When a timeout takes place (S114, S116), the dial lock is set (S108). Thus, the temporal release selection provides for release of the dial lock, enabling complete use of the mobile communication terminal until such time as a timeout occurs at which point the dial lock is set.

Claim 1 of the present invention has been amended to particularly point out and claim that the recited intermediate unlocked state provides for only limited operational use of the input portion of the electronic device as distinguished from the unlocked state, wherein the use of the input portion of the electronic device is not restricted and the locked state in which the input portion of the electronic device is significantly restricted. Thus, the intermediate unlocked state provides for a use of the input portion of the electronic device that is between the non-restricted use of the input portion associated with the unlocked state and the significantly restricted use of the input portion associated with the locked state. Such an intermediate unlocked state is not taught or suggested by Oiwa

Oiwa also does not disclose detecting termination of a user operation in an intermediate unlocked state where the user operation is other than the locking input

and being one of the group of completing user operation by a predetermined number of input operations, canceling user operation and detecting an unexpected user input. Oiwa merely uses a time based system for exiting its disclosed "temporal release" or use of an "end key" (Oiwa paragraph [0019]). Therefore, claim 1 is further distinguished over Oiwa in view of a different technique being used for detecting the termination of a user operation in said intermediate unlocked state. In addition, US patent 4,945,556, Namekawa, does not make up for this deficiency in Oiwa since in Namekawa, different lock codes are used to enter a state which provides for an unlocked state with different functionality than another unlocked state. In addition, only the lock codes can release the associated phone to an unlocked state, unlike the present invention as claimed where termination of a user operation in said intermediate unlocked state comprises the user operation being other than said locking input and being one of the group: completing the user operation by a predetermined number of input operations, cancelling the user operation, and detecting an unexpected user input. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by Oiwa, nor suggested by Oiwa taken alone or in combination with Namekawa.

Claim 6 is also believed to be not anticipated by Oiwa since it recites a computer program product for carrying out the method of claim 1.

Independent mobile electronic device claim 7 has been amended in a manner similar to method claim 1 and, for similar reasons, is not anticipated by Oiwa, nor suggested by Oiwa taken alone or in combination with Namekawa.

Similarly, new independent claim 17, which corresponds to mobile electronic device claim 7, but written using means plus function terminology, is also not anticipated by Oiwa nor suggested by Oiwa taken alone or in combination with Namekawa for the same reasons as those presented with regard to claim 7.

Since independent claims 1 and 7 are not anticipated by Oiwa, it is further respectfully submitted that in addition to claim 6, claims 8-10 and 16, all of which depend from either claim 1 or 7, are further not anticipated by Oiwa.

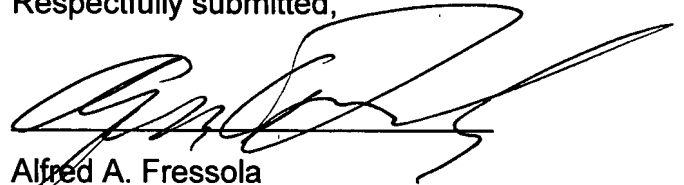
Claims 2, 4, 5, 11-13 and 15 have been canceled in view of the amendment to claims 1 and 7.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

At section 5, claims 2-4 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Oiwa, further in view of US patent 4,945,556, Namekawa. In view of the amendment to claims 1 and 7, claims 2-4 and 12-15 have been canceled.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Alfred A. Fressola
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 27,550

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WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYS
& ADOLPHSON LLP
Bradford Green, Building Five
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224
Monroe, CT 06468
Telephone: (203) 261-1234
Facsimile: (203) 261-5676
USPTO Customer No. 004955